

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 15 (Canceled).

1 16. (Currently amended) Method for the production of a
2 semifinished product (10) of composite material, in which
3 ~~fibers (12) that are of high tensile strength as well as~~
4 fibers are coated metallically namely with titanium or a
5 titanium based alloy and are then consolidated under the
6 ~~influence of~~ pressure at high temperature to form the
7 semifinished product (10), characterized in that in
8 connection with the coating of the high tensile strength
9 fibers (12) with titanium or the titanium based alloy,
10 ceramic particles (13) are embedded in the coating of the
11 fibers, ~~whereby~~ and then the thusly coated fibers are
12 arranged in a desired geometry and consolidated to form the
13 semifinished product.

1 17. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 16,
2 characterized in that the coating of the high tensile
3 strength fibers (12) with titanium or the titanium based
4 alloy is carried out under a reactive atmosphere.

1 18. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 17,
2 characterized in that the coating of the high tensile
3 strength fibers (12) with titanium or the titanium based
4 alloy is carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere as the

5 reactive atmosphere, whereby nitrogen atoms together with
6 titanium particles or particles of the titanium based alloy
7 deposit the ceramic particles (13) into the coating.

1 19. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 18,
2 characterized in that the ceramic particles (13) ~~in the~~
3 form comprise particles of titanium nitrides that are
4 deposited into the coating.

1 20. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 16,
2 characterized in that the coating is carried out as PVD
3 ~~coating, preferably as sputtering.~~ coating.

1 21. (New) Method according to claim 20, wherein the PVD coating
2 comprises sputtering.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]